

REMARKS

The applicant acknowledges receipt of the Office Action mailed 5 December 2005.

In Section 2 of that Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3 and 5 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Altmann, 4,877,281. In the reasons for rejection, in the second paragraph, the Examiner refers to column 4, lines 27-31, of Altmann as disclosing "at least two suction cups which can be removably secured to appropriate locations in the interior of the vehicle".

The applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the 35 USC §102(b) rejection in view of the following comments.

A close reading of lines 27 to 31 of column 4 of Altmann indicates that "lengths of cords, webbing, pullouts, tie loops, twill tape, S-hooks, hook and loop fasteners, or other kinds of fasteners may be attached to corners 40, 42, 44, and 46" are disclosed. *There is no mention of suction cups.*

Furthermore, a reading of the entire paragraph appearing at column 4, lines 27-43, indicates that the types of fasteners contemplated by Altmann are directed to attaching the top corners 40, 42, 44 and 46 of the interior cargo liner 20 to locations "along the perimeter of roof 30, such as along the seams or seam lines between roof 30 and left wall 24, front wall 26 and right wall 28". *There is no mention of attaching the liner 20 to the interiors of the windows of the vehicle.*

It is evident from his disclosure that Altmann was contemplating attaching parts of the liner 20 to appropriate locations on the interior roof fabric of the vehicle. Only hooks or other types of fasteners suitable for attaching to a fabric such as a roof liner are visualized. By teaching attachment to the interior roof liner, Altmann is teaching away from attachment to the windows.

At no location does Altmann disclose or teach or even hint at the concept of attaching the cargo liner to the interior sides of the windows of the vehicle. This is highly advantageous because using hooks or other types of fasteners to connect to the interior roof of the vehicle causes damage to the roof lining. It is submitted that suction cups are a distinct type of fastener (they cannot be used on fabric) and are not equivalent to "cords, webbing, pullouts, tie loops, twill tape, S-hooks, hook and loop fasteners or other kinds of fasteners" as recited at column 4, lines 27-31 of Altmann. It is evident that suction cups are not

among the group of interior roof liner fasteners contemplated by Altman as discussed in column 4, lines 27-43.

For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 1, 3 and 5 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Altman, US 4,877,281, is not sustainable and should be withdrawn.

In section 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 6-8 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Altmann, 4,877,281, in view of Gredy, US 2001/0036782.

In the second paragraph of that section, the Examiner has stated that Altmann discloses "suction cups". As pointed out above, Altmann does not disclose suction cups. He only discloses fasteners of a type which can be secured to the interior roof lining of a vehicle. Accordingly the premise upon which the rejection under 35 USC §103(a) is based is incorrect.

It is submitted, therefore, that the rejection of claims 6-8 under 35 USC §103(a) should be withdrawn.

In section 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 13-15, 17 and 18 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Altmann, 4,877,281, in view of Tretheway, 5,588,476.

Again, the Examiner, in the paragraph following, states that Altmann discloses at least two suction cups (column 4, lines 27-31). Since Altmann does not in fact disclose suction cups, the foundation upon which the Examiner has constructed a rejection of claims 13-15, 17 and 18 under 35 USC §103(a) is incorrect. It is submitted, therefore, that the rejection of claims 13-15, 17 and 18 under 35 USC §103(a) should be withdrawn.

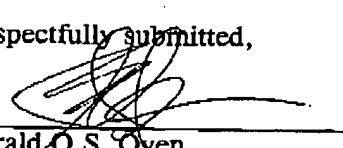
Lastly, in section 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claim 16 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Altmann, 4,877,281 and Tretheway, 5,588,476.

As discussed previously, Altmann does not disclose suction cups, elastic cords or grommets and accordingly it is submitted that the rejection of claim 16 under 35 USC §103(a) should be withdrawn.

In conclusion, it is submitted that the claims submitted with the Amendment that was filed on November 1, 2005 are patentable and accordingly allowance of those claims for the reasons stated above is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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